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BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF MARYLAND

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

CC 95-116

IN THE MATTER OF THE
COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATION
INTO LONG TERM SOLUTIONS
TO NUMBER PORTABILITY IN
MARYLAND

CASE NO. 8704

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**Third Quarterly Report
of the
Maryland Local Number Portability Consortium**

Prepared by the Staff of the
Public Service Commission of Maryland

October 1996

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**TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF MARYLAND
Third Quarterly Report on Local Number Portability
October 1996**

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Executive Summary

In accordance with the Commission's order in Case 8704, Staff submits this Third Quarterly Report of the Maryland Local Number Portability Consortium.

Staff recommends that this be the last quarterly report filed by Staff. In the future, the Consortium has agreed that a quarterly "progress report" would be presented by the carriers to Staff. The carriers would point out any areas where they could not come to compromise. The report need not be complicated, and may be an exception report for jeopardy items. Staff will review this report for any problems in achieving the Commission's permanent LNP goals. Staff will recommend Commission action if necessary. Staff believes a Consortium progress report is appropriate because all of the members of the Consortium have expressed their commitment to achieving a 3rd Quarter 1997 implementation date.

Specifically, BA-MD has expressed its commitment to begin the implementation of LNP during the 3rd Quarter of 1997 and complete conversion in the Baltimore LATA and the Maryland portion of the Washington LATA by 12/31/97. The remainder of the offices in the Baltimore and Washington MSAs would be converted by 3/31/98 to meet the requirements of the FCC order. The remainder of the state would be converted by 6/30/98. A preliminary conversion

timeline agreed to at the 8/29 Steering Committee meeting is included in Appendix 3 (Attachment 3)

This report contains the timeline and milestones for implementing permanent LNP. It contains progress of the technical teams, legal committee, RFP drafting team, and cost recovery committee.

Staff has received informal indications from BA-MD that it intends to use the NPAC services procured by MCAC. However, a formal assurance would be useful in MCAC's communications with the vendors.

Consortium Planning

The Consortium has updated its timeline of activities and milestones. The Consortium Project Timeline is shown in Appendix 1. The timeline shows a timetable to achieve the goal of implementing a permanent local number portability solution by 3rd Quarter 1997.

RFP Drafting Team

During this quarter, primary activities of the Consortium have centered around the RFP Drafting Team and Legal Committee work. All RFP Drafting Team members have been supportive and actively involved in the issuance of the RFP on July 9, 1996. The Team has had the counsel of the Legal Committee and procurement experts to assist in this process. During each Steering Committee Meeting, there was a review of the latest RFP wording changes. The Consortium made recommendations on the evaluation proposal, evaluation matrix, weighting, response procedures, bidders conference, prequalification, schedule, etc. The vendor community also provided some feedback on what they believed worked (or did not) work well during the Illinois RFP process, and the MD RFP Team made adjustments to the process as appropriate.

During this time, the Consortium received a MD Commission Order and FCC Order on LNP. The Legal Committee and RFP Drafting Teams met to address any changes required to the RFP in light of these orders.

The Maryland Limited Liability Company/Maryland Carrier Acquisition Company (LLC/MCAC) was formed on June 28, 1996. After the Maryland LLC/MCAC was formed, it issued the Maryland RFP to 43 vendors. Maryland is the first state to have issued an RFP under the auspices of an LLC, and many states have looked to Maryland for guidance in this area. The RFP Schedule is also included on the timeline.

The FCC Order discusses a system of regional databases designated by the North American Numbering Council (NANC). There was much discussion within the Consortium on Service Management System (SMS) regionalization or the ability for the MD SMS to be extended to become a regional SMS.

On July 31, Bell Atlantic provided a presentation concerning their views on regionalization. See Appendix 2. They provided several options, recommending that the MD SMS become the Bell Atlantic Regional SMS and the NY SMS become the NYNEX Regional SMS initially. This would allow a transition during the next contract negotiations so that either the NY or MD SMS would become the SMS for both regions. The Consortium concurs in the recommendations, and the RFP Drafting Team will be actively involved in working out the planning process to support this effort in concert with NANC.

In early August, Vendor Pre-Qualification occurred. The following vendors submitted pre-qualification applications:

- Lockheed Martin, with subcontractors Evolving Systems Incorporated (ESI), DSET Corporation and Stratus Computer, Inc.
- Andersen Consulting, with subcontractor Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC).
- Integrated Systems Solutions Corporation (ISSC) a wholly owned subsidiary of IBM, with subcontractor Bellcore.
- Bell Sygma's Information Systems (BSIS) a wholly owned subsidiary of Bell Canada, with subcontractors Stentor (using its software developer, SHL Systemhouse), and Tandem Computers .
- Excell L.L.C. with SHL Systemhouse as subcontractor. SHL is a wholly owned subsidiary of MCI Telecommunications Corporation.
- Perot Systems Corporation, with subcontractor Nortel.
- Saville Systems

During the prequalification round, the evaluation team (made up of representatives of Bell Atlantic, AT&T, MCI, Sprint, MFS and TCG) evaluated and discussed jointly the prequalification applications. However the scoring was performed by MCAC members only. Since BA-MD is not a member of MCAC, it

could not participate in the scoring. However, BA-MD did not disagree with the results. The vendors were scored in the following areas:

- Financial responsibility
- Experience on similar projects
- Neutrality
- Acceptance of Key Business Terms and Conditions

Six of the seven vendors have prequalified to enter "round two" of MCAC's RFP process. Saville did not qualify because of lack of experience in this type of system development. These pre-qualified vendors submitted written requests for information/clarification of MCAC's RFP including regionalization of the SMS. MCAC's RFP team provided responses to these inquiries at the bidders' conference which took place on September 17, 1996. A schedule of future MCAC procurement activities is shown in Appendix 5.

The Maryland staff hosted a discussion of regional LNP issues among the state Commission Staffs in the Bell Atlantic region. The state Staffs seemed to be generally supportive of a regional database idea. Some are taking actions to inform their Commissions directly, however some believe that a joint petition from the industry supporting a regional database would be beneficial.

Given that the states were generally supportive, MCAC decided to modify the RFP to include the entire Bell Atlantic region. Preliminary cost estimates from vendors indicate that if at least one state shares and contributes financially

to the Maryland LNP database, then Maryland is better off than if it procures a state-specific database. Hence, even though other states could not commit up front, the Consortium and LLC believe it is a sound decision to proceed as though there would be some commitment to a regional solution later on.

Bell Atlantic Carrier Services, Network Services Inc., hosted a meeting on September 12 at the Dulles Airport Marriott. The meeting was attended by 60 representatives of carriers (ILECS, CLECS, Cellular) in the Bell Atlantic Region. As a result of the meeting, there appeared to be widespread support among carriers for a regional database covering the Bell Atlantic region. This information will be relayed to the North American Numbering Council (NANC), the FCC designated overseer of regional LNP databases, at the first NANC meeting on October 1, 1996.

Legal Committee

The Limited Liability Company was formed on June 24. AT&T, MCI, Sprint and MFS became its initial members, and on July 31, TCG became a member. The purpose of the LLC is to provide a unified contracting entity to the NPAC contractor, issue the RFP, make a vendor selection and supervise the primary vendor and sub-contractor(s), if any. Letters were sent to other authorized Maryland local exchange carriers inviting them to join.

Bell Atlantic-Maryland has not joined because it is concerned with voting power provisions and dispute resolution mechanisms contained in the LLC operating agreement. See Appendix 3 Attachment 2 - D. Lynd Letter to C. Collins dated 8/6/96. MCAC has responded to that letter. See Appendix 4, Aug. 20 letter from C. Collins. It is hoped that these and follow up correspondence will result in actions that will eliminate BA-MD's concerns.

BA-MD is concerned that existing procedures will result in its being out voted on many critical issues. BA-MD is also concerned about the LLC's role in forming policies concerning the NPAC. BA-MD also believes that the advisability of membership in a Maryland LLC is questionable when a multi-state regional approach is under serious consideration. BA-MD prefers to defer the issue of its membership in MCAC until a regional solution is finalized.

Staff disagrees with BA-MD's concerns. There are two kinds of policies that the LLC will deal with: (1) any cost recovery methods and other broad policy issues not decided by the FCC and (2) operational policies and policies concerning how the NPAC should serve carriers.

BA-MD will be able to shape the cost recovery and other broad policies of the regional NPAC regardless of whether it joins the LLC or whether it has a single vote within the LLC. If BA-MD or any party disputes the results of any Consortium Steering Committee or LLC voting, it can always petition the FCC or Maryland Commission. The Commission has indicated sensitivity to BA-MD's minority status in the LLC. Also, if MCAC becomes the LLC for the Bell Atlantic

region, it is likely that other incumbent LECs (e.g., GTE) would want to join and they may vote along with Bell Atlantic on some issues. Many of the more contentious issues such as cost recovery will be decided by the FCC, leaving MCAC with the more harmonious issues to decide.

The reason BA-MD should join the LLC is to provide a unified front in dealing with the NPAC concerning operational policy (e.g., how carriers and NPAC should interact). If there is any dispute as to what policies are in the public interest, again, the Commission can be informed by any party. BA-MD's participation in the LLC is necessary to help shape these policies.

The advantage in BA-MD membership will be to further the LNP process. If there is agreement among members (and it is expected that agreement will be reached on many minor and some major issues), this can be communicated via a uniform front to the NPAC which has a contractual relationship with the LLC. Hence, there is a benefit to BA-MD (as a user of the NPAC) and no real drawback. There is a benefit to the LNP process. If the NPAC vendor contracts with a unified, stable entity, that is likely to translate into a lower price quotation, and therefore, lower rates. BA-MD's participation will greatly enhance the MCAC's bargaining power in contract negotiations with the final candidate.

Staff believes that BA-MD membership in the LLC would lead to efficiency. Staff encourages BA-MD to join the LLC as quickly as possible. By joining the LLC, BA-MD does not relinquish any right to petition the Commission for reconsideration of any voting results by the LLC. It is clearly understood that

by joining the LLC, BA-MD does not necessarily endorse any of the policies of the LLC. There is no need for BA-MD to wait for regionalization to decide whether to join or not join. BA-MD should join regardless of whether the database is regionalized (although it is likely that a regional solution will be developed). Staff notes that NYNEX, Pacific Bell, U.S. West and Ameritech have joined the LLCs formed in their regions. Bell South has indicated it intends to join its LLC.

Staff has received informal indications from BA-MD that it does intend to use the NPAC services procured by MCAC. In fact, Bell Atlantic has stated that "BA-MD has continued to participate in RFP activities and believes its opinions and views have been respected. Although still early in the process, BA-MD has no reason thus far to not want to use the NPAC services procured by MCAC." However, a formal positive assurance would be useful in communications with the vendors and would clearly indicate to them that the RBOC in the mid-Atlantic area intends to participate.

In the future, if BA-MD changes its mind, Commission direction might be needed to maintain the integrity of the NPAC procurement, but not at this time.

Consultation with Maryland Attorney General's Office

The Legal Committee contacted the Antitrust Division within the Attorney General's Office to request a review of the LLC's operating agreement. Based

on discussions, Staff's involvement in the LLC will be reduced from chairman of the Steering Committee and its meetings to the role of "observer". At its meeting on August 29, MCAC ratified the LLC operating agreement amendment deleting Staff's role as chair of the Steering Committee and its meetings, opting instead to define Staff's role as a non-voting observer in LLC meetings, reporter of LLC activities to the Commission, and an external contact to other commissions and interested parties. Staff will remain as temporary Chair of the Consortium's Steering Committee until a replacement is named~~the LLC takes over all Consortium functions.~~ A successor should be chosen as soon as possible.

Cost Recovery

The Commission set LNP cost recovery issues (permanent and interim) for adjudication with Joel Bright, Hearing Examiners Division. The parties all agreed to wait until the FCC rules on permanent LNP cost recovery issues sometime in the Fall, and then move quickly to resolve any Maryland specific issues.

A question remains over whether interim number portability issues should be litigated in Case No. 8731 (the Commission's arbitration proceedings) or in Case No. 8704 (the number portability docket). At least 2 parties have requested resolution of interim number portability issues in their arbitration petitions in CN 8731. BA-MD believes the issues surrounding the appropriate

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cost recovery mechanism can be addressed in a separate phase of Case No. 8704.

For interim LNP cost recovery issues, the Consortium recommended that a procedural schedule not be set until either the FCC rules on Bell Atlantic's Petition for Reconsideration at the FCC or the Maryland Commission rules on interim LNP in Case No. 8731. An interim LNP Settlement Conference was held on September 19, 1996, but was unsuccessful.

--Technical Subteam Reports--

Progress has been made on the technical teams. Bell Atlantic is still pursuing Query on Release with the FCC, and filed an August 26, 1996, Petition for Reconsideration in the FCC's LNP Docket. However, this is not expected to cause any delay in implementation of permanent LNP in Maryland.

Operations Team

The Maryland LNP Operations Team met four times during the second quarter and achieved the following:

- The Operations Team was able to make progress toward fulfilling its mission of establishing a comprehensive operations plan for the implementation of Location Routing Number for the consumers in Maryland. The current target date for beginning the deployment of permanent LNP is 3rd Quarter 1997.

- An NPA/NXX correlation report of the Maryland End Offices was prepared using the Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG) and provided to the members of the Team to establish their Company's priority listing for LNP deployment. The Baltimore and Washington (Maryland End Offices) LATAs were classified together to form one set of priorities; and the Salisbury and Hagerstown LATAs were grouped together to form the other set of priorities by NPA/NXX. (See Appendix 6 for a copy of the preliminary prioritization of the Maryland End Offices, in order by rank. Each participating company used the alphabetical report to establish its own prioritization. This list was given to the Maryland PSC Staff – Consortium Chair, Geoff Waldau, who prepared a consolidated rank order based on the votes of the companies.) This initial listing will be analyzed by the Operations Team members and finalized during the next several weeks. Bell Atlantic will determine the LRN software availability for each End Office switch type and work to meet the roll-out schedule as determined by the Operations Team membership.
- The Operations Team has reached consensus on objectives relative to processes required for Interfaces, Ordering, Provisioning, Repair and Maintenance. The Operations Team is actively discussing the Process Flowcharts. These will be re-evaluated upon the awarding of a contract with the successful SMS vendor at the conclusion of the RFP process.
- An Issues Database was chosen and approved by the Team and will be used to track deliverables. As an issue is brought forward by a member of the

Team, it will be discussed, defined, addressed and resolved by the assigned responsible constituent. This will provide the Team with an organized approach for capturing questions, challenges, unresolved matters, and any operational related consideration. (See Appendix 6 for a sample of the Issues Database).

- The Team endorsed a project timeline which will be used to maintain the Team's focus on the goal. Some milestones have already been met and documented, such as adoption of the Mission, the Issues Database, the Process Flowcharts and preliminary End Office roll-put schedule. The individual Team timeline has been incorporated into the Consortium Project Timeline.

Switch Requirements Team

MD Switch Requirements have not been finalized during this quarter. After discussions at the April 24, 1996 Steering Committee Meeting, it was believed that it was not appropriate to finalize any requirements document with open issues listed. Therefore, the MD Switch Requirements document remains in draft form.

The Switch Requirements Team held two meetings since the last Quarterly Report. There was a conference call in May to address questions Bell Atlantic had on changes to the switch requirements generated out of Illinois.

There was also a conference call in July subsequent to the MD Commission Order and the FCC Order on LNP (there was nothing requiring changes to the MD Requirements between May and July). The purpose of this July meeting was to discuss the changes required in light of these orders to the MD Switch Requirements and the Open Issues documented in the Requirements. There were originally five Open Issues listed in this document--four have now been closed for Maryland (two of those are still open for the Bell Atlantic territory). Bell Atlantic asked that one Open Issue remain on the Requirements document for Maryland--that is, a mechanism is needed to limit the number of queries for calls to non-ported telephone numbers. Bell Atlantic has advised the Team that it is working to resolve this issue as well as any others that might not be listed in the Requirements document through the Bellcore Generic Requirements process. (See Appendix 6 for a copy of the latest draft MD Switch Requirements)

SCP Requirements Team

MD SCP Requirements also have not been finalized during this quarter since recommendations from the April 24th Steering Committee was to let the MD Requirements documents remain in draft form while Open Issues were listed.

The SCP Requirements Team held two meetings since the last Quarterly Report. There was a meeting in May to discuss the latest changes to the SCP Requirements document generated out of Illinois. After the MD Commission Order and FCC Order on LNP, a second meeting was scheduled in August to

update the SCP Requirements and Open Issues in light of these orders. There were four Open Issues documented in the SCP Requirements. Three issues have been closed for Maryland and one remains open for the Bell Atlantic territory. Bell Atlantic asked that one Open Issue remain in the SCP Requirements document for MD which is also noted in the Switch Requirements (limiting the number of queries for calls to non-ported telephone numbers.) A copy of the latest draft of the MD SCP Requirements is included in Appendix 6

Operator Services Requirements Team

The Operator Services Requirements Document is in final draft form, the latest copy issued on September 4th. After the MD Commission Order and FCC Order on LNP, a meeting was scheduled in August to review changes required to the MD Operator Services Requirements in light of those orders. There are no Open Issues remaining in the Requirements document. All MD specific concerns and requirements have been addressed to the MD Team's satisfaction in Issue 1.1 of the Operator Services requirements out of Illinois. A copy of the latest draft Operator Service document has been included in Appendix 6

Conclusion

Good progress has been made. All carriers have agreed to a feasible timetable for implementing permanent LNP in Maryland. The carriers will be able to report to Staff on future progress.

Appendices

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Appendix 2: Bell Atlantic Proposal for NPAC/SMS Regionalization

Appendix 3: Bell Atlantic Letter and Attachments

Appendix 4: MCAC Reply

Appendix 5: NPAC Schedules

Appendix 6: Technical Issues Status, Requirements Documents, NPA/NXX

Roll-Out Schedule

**Staff's Third Quarterly Report on the
Maryland Local Number Portability Consortium**

Appendix 1

Appendix 1

List of Meetings Held Since Second Quarterly Report

April

- 1 Operator Services Requirements Team (conference call)
- 2 Steering Committee
- 3 Legal Committee
- 5 Legal Committee (conference call)
- 9 SCP Requirements Team (conference call)
- 17 Operations Team
- 24 Steering Committee

May

- 6 Legal Committee
- 10 Legal Committee
- 15 Steering Committee
- 16 Operations Team

June

- 3 Legal Committee
- 5 Steering Committee
- 11 RFP Drafting Team
- 13 Operations Team
- 14 Legal Committee
- 18 Steering Committee

July

- 2 RFP Drafting Team
- 5 RFP Drafting Team
- 9 Steering Committee
- 10 Operations Team
- 17 Legal Committee
- 30 Switch Requirements Team
- 31 Steering Committee, MCAC

August

- 5 RFP Drafting Team, Operator Service Team
- 6 Steering Committee, MCAC
- 8 SCP Requirements (Conference Call)
- 12 RFP Drafting Team (Conference Call)
- 20 Operations Team
- 23 RFP Drafting Team
- 29 Steering Committee, MCAC
- 30 Legal Committee

September

- 9** Legal Committee
- 12** Bell Atlantic Hosted Meeting at Dulles Airport Marriott
- 17** Steering Committee, RFP Bidders Conference

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Maryland Local Number Portability Consortium

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Prede	Resource Na
1	Regulatory Activities Involving LNP	352d	6/29/95	11/1/96		
2	Initial MD Order Supporting LNP	1d	6/29/95	6/29/95		MD Commis
3	MD Administrative Hearing on LNP	1d	1/17/96	1/17/96		MD Commis
4	MD Order Supporting 3Q97 LRN Implementatio	1d	6/24/96	6/24/96		MD Commis
5	FCC Order on LNP	0d	7/2/96	7/2/96		
6	FCC Order on LNP Cost Recovery (TBD)	89d	7/2/96	11/1/96	5	
7						
8	Consortium Planning and Organization	306d	7/31/95	9/30/96		
9	Organize Committees	1d	7/31/95	7/31/95		Steering Co
10	Develop Mission and Scope	16d	7/31/95	8/21/95		
11	Write First Report to Commission	26d	10/6/95	11/10/95		Staff
12	Submit First Report to Commission	0d	12/5/95	12/5/95	11	
13	Notify MD Carriers of Consortium Activities	3d	2/20/96	2/22/96		Staff
14	Write Second Report to Commission	34d	3/5/96	4/19/96		Staff
15	Submit Second Report to Commission	1d	4/22/96	4/22/96	14	
16	Write Third Report to Commission	55d	7/15/96	9/27/96		Staff
17	Submit Third Report to Commission	1d	9/30/96	9/30/96	16	
18						
19						
20	Funding, Cost Recovery, Tariffs	501d	8/1/95	7/1/97		
21	Dev Cost Recovery Methodology Proposal	135d	8/1/95	2/5/96		Cost Recove
22	Dev Assump—Cost Data Request—w/o SMS	135d	8/1/95	2/5/96		
23	Steering Com Review of Task 11 & 12	1d	2/6/96	2/6/96	21,2	
24	LNP Costs Data Responses (w/o SMS)	15d	2/5/96	2/23/96		
25	Commission Staff Review of Costs	4d	2/26/96	2/29/96	24	Commission
26	Steering Committee Review of Aggregate Cost	1d	3/1/96	3/1/96	25	Steering Co
27	Provide to Comm (Dates TBD)	348d	3/1/96	7/1/97		
28	Develop SMS Costs (Dates TBD)	348d	3/1/96	7/1/97		
29	Tariffs (Dates TBD)	348d	3/1/96	7/1/97		
30	Standards (Dates TBD)	348d	3/1/96	7/1/97		
31						
32						
33	LNP Call Model	43d	9/5/95	11/3/95		Steering Co
34	Finalize Maryland Evaluation Matrix	2d	9/5/95	9/6/95		Call Model S
35	Send Framework to Vendors	0d	9/8/95	9/8/95	34	
36	Declarations by Call Model Presenters	0d	9/15/95	9/15/95	35	
37	Call Model Documentation Due	0d	10/16/95	10/16/95	36	
38	Vendor Presentations of Call Models	2d	10/23/95	10/24/95	37	
39	Each Carrier Perf Rel Cost Eval of Models	1d	10/25/95	10/25/95	38	
40	Select Call Model Permanent Solution	0d	11/3/95	11/3/95	39	
41	Individual Carrier Availability Plan Due	0d	11/3/95	11/3/95	40	
42						
43	Network Topology	37d	8/7/95	9/26/95		
44	Define Current Network Topology	36d	8/7/95	9/25/95		Network Top
45	Carrier Input on Current Topology Due	0d	9/22/95	9/22/95		
46	Finalize Current Network Topology Baseline	1d	9/26/95	9/26/95	44,4	
47						
48	Local Number Administration	568d	7/31/95	10/1/97		
49	Request for Information	44d	9/15/95	11/15/95		
50	Develop RFI	10d	9/15/95	9/28/95		LNASC / SM
51	Send RFI to Potential Vendors/Bidders	0d	9/28/95	9/28/95	50	LNASC / SM
52	Receive Information from Vendors/Bidders	0d	11/2/95	11/2/95	51	
53	Supplemental RFI to Vendors	6d	11/8/95	11/15/95		
54	Responses Back from Vendors	1d	11/15/95	11/15/95		
55	Contracting Entity	240d	7/31/95	6/28/96		
56	Form Limited Liability Corp—MCAC	234d	7/31/95	6/20/96		Legal Com
57	MD Commission Endorses LLC Formation	1d	6/24/96	6/24/96		MD Commis
58	First Official LLC Members Meeting	1d	6/28/96	6/28/96		LLC